Local Government Mandate Statement Kentucky Legislative Research Commission 2020 Regular Session

Part I: Measure Information

Bill Request #: 1154	
Bill #: HB 1 HCS 1	
Document ID #: 5418	
Bill Subject/Title: AN ACT relating to public assistance.	
Sponsor: Rep. David Meade	
Unit of Government: X City X County X Urban-C Unified	•
X Charter County X Consolidated Local X Government	nent
Office(s) Impacted: Fiscal courts; employees; jailers; jails	
Requirement: X Mandatory Optional	
Effect on Powers & Duties: Modifies ExistingX Adds New Eliminates Existi	ng

Part II: Bill Provisions and the Estimated Fiscal Impact Relating to Local Government

HB 1 HCS 1, in broad terms, would establish certain requirements and limitations for various public assistance programs administered by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS). It requires the cabinet to use a single electronic benefits card for each beneficiary of cash assistance programs within 90 days of the bill's effective date. It prohibits use of the card for certain products such as alcohol, tobacco products, gambling, and adult entertainment. It permits using the card at an ATM, but the cash can only be used for goods and services necessary for the welfare of the family. Various provisions relate to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid. Medicaid would have a community engagement program if 50% of the general fund budget request for Medicaid is required for the state match to support expanded Medicaid. A person would be required to participate in at least 80 hours of qualifying activities each month. The bill requires the cabinet to develop a health insurance option for up to 12 months for persons who were eligible for Medicaid after July 1, 2019, and earns between 138% and 200% of the federal poverty level. Cost sharing and monthly premiums could be used on a sliding scale. Certain other eligibility requirements are established for the programs.

In Section 14, the bill requires a jailer to notify the Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) in CHFS when a county prisoner is incarcerated longer than 48 hours, and also to notify at least 48 hours prior to a county prisoner's release from incarceration (provided the prisoner is not held under a contractual agreement with the state or the United States government). If the prisoner is to be released in a period of time such that 48 hour notice cannot be given, then the jailer must notify DCBS "immediately."

The fiscal impact of the bill is minimal to moderate, depending on the county, jail, and budgets. According to the Scott County Jailer, it would not be easy to track an inmate based upon the 48 hour timeframe. The jail would need computer software that could track the incarceration timeframes of all inmates and identify those who had been incarcerated for 48 hours and those who would be released within 48 hours. Jails may operate at the minimal staffing levels required by the Department of Corrections, and devoting manpower for this task would be an additional burden. It would take about 70 minutes each day to obtain the information and forward it to DCBS, although it might take longer for larger jails. If computer systems are not working, then the analysis would be done manually. The average hourly rate, including benefits, for staff time is \$25 per hour, which would apply either to running computer reports or manually reviewing files. There may be additional costs for reporting after hours, on weekends, and on holidays.

Part III: Differences to Local Government Mandate Statement from Prior Versions

Part II, above, relates to HB 1 HCS 1.

Data Source(s): LRC staff; Scott County Jailer

Preparer: Robert Jenkins **Reviewer:** KHC **Date:** 2/21/20